

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 15-30, 38, 41-46 and 51-64 are currently pending in the subject application. Claims 28-30, 38, 46, 51-60, 63 and 64 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 15-17 and 19-24 have been amended. Claims 56, 58-60, 63 and 64 have been cancelled. Claims 65-70 have been added. Claims 15, 53 and 57 are independent.

Applicants request, in the next Office action, that the Examiner indicate the acceptability of the drawings filed on August 26, 2003.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's consideration of applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed June 14, 2007.

A. Asserted Obviousness Rejection of Claims 15-27, 41-45, 61 and 62

In the outstanding Office Action Made Final, mailed July 13, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 15-27, 41-45, 61 and 62 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,731,155 to Napoli et al. ("the Napoli et al. reference") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,772,905 to Chou ("the Chou reference"). This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 15 now recites, *inter alia*, separating the support substrate through the first and second opposing parallel surfaces to form individual optical elements." Support for this feature may be found, for example, in at least FIG. 6A and the related discussion thereof in the parent application.

The Examiner characterized the Napoli et al. reference as teaching all limitations set forth in claim 15 other than the creation of optical elements, relying on the Chou reference for this teaching. It is respectfully submitted that the Napoli et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest "separating" as now more clearly defined in claim 15. Further, as the Chou reference is directed to CDs, there is clearly no teaching of such separating.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn. The remaining rejected claims depend from claim 15, and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons set forth above. Upon allowance of claim 15, it is respectfully requested that withdrawn claims depending therefrom be rejoined.

B. Applicant Initiated Interview Request

Applicant respectfully requests, prior to the issuance of an action on the merits, that the Examiner grant a personal interview with applicant's representative in order to discuss the

finality of the Office action, and the differences between the cited prior art and the subject matter recited in the claims.

Applicant's representative will telephone the Examiner within the next two weeks in an attempt to schedule this personal interview. However, as applicant's representative cannot anticipate when this application will be scheduled for further action by the Examiner, it is requested that the Examiner contact applicant's representative by telephone, at the number given below, should a specific date for the interview not have been scheduled when the Examiner takes this application up for further action. Every effort will be made to meet the Examiner's scheduling preference.

C. Conclusion

The above remarks demonstrate failings of the Examiner's rationales for the outstanding rejections, and are sufficient to overcome the outstanding rejections. However, these remarks are not intended to, nor need they, comprehensively address each and every reason for the patentability of the claimed subject matter over the applied art. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the claims are allowable for reasons including, but not limited to, those set forth above, and patentability of the claims does not depend solely on the particular claim element(s) (if any) discussed above.

If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited, and an early and favorable further action upon all the claims is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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PETITION and
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, applicant hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying-papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.